

VZCZCXRO9588

RR RUEHAG RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLZ RUEHROV

DE RUEHTC #0599 1991055

ZNR UUUAA ZZH

R 171055Z JUL 08

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1739

INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE

RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU 0121

RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV 0455

RUEHPS/AMEMBASSY PRISTINA 0703

RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO 0223

RUEHSQ/AMEMBASSY SKOPJE 0548

RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 0142

RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 2919

RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA 0525

RUEHYE/AMEMBASSY YEREVAN 0037

RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASH DC

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 000599

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/SCE (SSHIRATORI), EUR/WE (TSMITH)
TREASURY FOR DO/IA/IDP, IMI/OASIA (VATUKORALA)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [KV](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/KOSOVO: SUPPORTING IMF, WORLD BANK
MEMBERSHIP

REF: STATE 69691

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED; PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY

¶1. (SBU) The Dutch Finance Ministry's Head of International Financial Institutions (IFIs), Freek Keppels, told PolEconCouns July 15 that the Netherlands supports Kosovo's application for membership in the IMF and World Bank. Keppels estimated that countries which have recognized Kosovo represent 53 percent of the votes at these IFIs. He said it was now "up to Kosovo" to decide whether to move quickly for membership with a thin majority or go more slowly and build further support. In Keppels opinion, pressing too hard for quick membership risks being counterproductive in the long-run.

¶2. (SBU) The Netherlands heads a 12-country "mixed" constituency of both debtors and creditors at the IMF and World Bank (comprised mainly of Central and Eastern European and Caucasus states). Only three members of this group (the Netherlands, Bulgaria, and Croatia) have recognized Kosovo; other members, such as Bosnia and Cyprus, oppose recognition.

Keppels pointed out that because of this split, the Dutch constituency would not be the most likely one for Kosovo to join. He added, however, the Netherlands would be amenable to Kosovo joining its constituency "if it works out that way" through negotiations.

Gallagher